

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the Application.

Please amend claims 8, 10, 12, 14, and 53. Please cancel claims 11, 51-52, and 54-59 without acquiescence to any rejection and without prejudice to further prosecution of this subject matter in a related divisional, continuation, or continuation-in-part application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Previously Presented): An isolated polynucleotide that encodes a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2.

3. – 6. (Cancelled)

7. (Previously Presented): An isolated polynucleotide comprising the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:1.

8. (Currently Amended): An expression vector comprising a polynucleotide according to any one of claims 2, 7, 51-56 and 53.

9. (Original): A host cell transformed or transfected with an expression vector according to claim 8.

10. (Currently Amended): An antisense polynucleotide comprising a polynucleotide that is complementary to a polynucleotide according to any one of claims 2, 7, 51-56 and 53.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Currently Amended): An expression vector comprising a polynucleotide according to claim 10 or ~~claim 11~~.

13. (Original): A host cell transformed or transfected with an expression vector according to claim 12.

14. (Currently Amended): A method of producing a ~~dual specificity phosphatase 2 (DSP-2)~~ polypeptide that is selected from the group consisting of (i) a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2 and (ii) a polypeptide that is capable of dephosphorylating an activated mitogen-activated protein kinase and that is encoded by a polynucleotide that comprises a nucleotide sequence at least 90% identical to a polynucleotide that encodes the polypeptide of (i), comprising the steps of:

- (a) culturing a host cell according to claim 9 under conditions that permit expression of the ~~DSP-2~~ polypeptide; and
- (b) isolating ~~DSP-2~~ the polypeptide from the host cell culture.

15. – 52. (Cancelled)

53. (Currently Amended) An isolated polynucleotide that encodes a polypeptide capable of dephosphorylating an activated mitogen-activated protein kinase (MAP-kinase), said isolated polynucleotide comprising a sequence at least 90% identical to a polynucleotide that encodes a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2, wherein the polypeptide comprises the amino acid sequence LHCAAGVSRS (SEQ ID NO:3).

54. -59 (Cancelled)